| | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **Notice of Allowability** | 09/899,431 | BERQUE, DAVID |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Steven B. Theriault | 2179 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to _06/06/2005_.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are _1-13,17-40, 48-50, 57, 60-61, 68, 69, 77-80, 108, 117-129_.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on _03 July 2001_ are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some*    c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

## EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with William Bahret on 08/18/2005.


The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:


1. (Currently amended) A system for knowledge transfer in a group setting, the

system comprising: a plurality of participant workstations, each adapted to

provide a participant work area having a plurality of panels, each participant

workstation, having at least one corresponding participant input-device and

participant display, and each of the participant input-devices being adapted to

define participant images that are then included on the corresponding participant

work area; and a moderator workstation, comprising at least one moderator

input-device and adapted to provide a moderator work area having a plurality of

panels, the at least one moderator input-device being adapted to define

moderator images that are then included on the moderator work area and to

select moderator images that are then simultaneously included on each of the

participant work areas; wherein the moderator input-device is further adapted to

select participant images from any of the plurality of participant work areas that

are then included on the moderator work area; wherein the moderator

workstation is adapted to identify a panel **not** currently displayed in a selected

participant work area and to transmit a request message to the corresponding

participant workstation for the identified panel; and wherein the corresponding

participant workstation is adapted to transmit the identified panel to the

moderator workstation in response to the request message.


2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the moderator

workstation is adapted to identify more than one panel to acquire from a selected

participant work area and to transmit a request message to the corresponding

participant workstation for the identified panels and wherein the corresponding

participant workstation is adapted to transmit the identified panels to the

moderator workstation in response to the request message.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of display

elements adapted to display the moderator work area and the plurality of

participant work areas.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the plurality of display elements are

substantially located to permit a user to simultaneously view one of the display

elements and hear substantially every other user that is viewing another of the display elements.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the user hears substantially every other user through a form of audio transmission.

6. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the work areas are permitted to have a size exceeding that which can be displayed on the display elements.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the work areas each comprise at least one scroll.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 7, wherein each scroll comprises a set of scrollable panels.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the work areas can be stored as a single computer file, and wherein previously-saved files can be imported into a work area.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the input-devices are adapted to define the images by creating text objects and draw objects corresponding to the images.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the input-devices are further adapted to define the images by creating erase objects.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the input-devices are further adapted to define the images by creating bitmap objects.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein additional participant work areas can be created and added to the system while the system is in operation.

14 -16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 34, wherein the moderator work area comprises the shared work area and a moderator private work area, and each participant work area comprises a participant public work area and a private work area.

18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein each participant's work station displays images placed on the shared work area superimposed on images placed in that participant's public work area.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 34, wherein the system can be used in a group mode and a standalone mode.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 34, wherein the workstations are located such that a first user positioned to use a workstation and a second user positioned to use a different workstation can hear each other speak.

21. (Currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein every user positioned to use a workstation can hear every other user positioned to use any other workstation.

22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 34,wherein no user positioned to use a workstation can hear any other user positioned to use a different workstation.

23. (Currently amended) The system of claim 34, wherein images are organized in notebook data structures comprising at least one panel.

24. (Currently amended) The system of claim 23, wherein the images are stored as at least one object in a single panel.

25. (Currently amended) The system of claim 23, wherein the images are stored as at least one record in a relational database.

26. (Currently amended) The system of claim 23, wherein the images are stored as at least one record in an indexed database.

27. (Currently amended) The system of claim 34, wherein images placed on a participant's work area at a participant workstation may be viewed only at that workstation unless that participant decides to permit them to be viewed from another workstation.

28. (Currently amended) The system of claim 27, wherein a participant can implement a decision to permit an image placed on a participant work area to be viewed at another workstation by setting a flag.

29. (Currently amended) The system of claim 27, wherein a participant can implement a decision to permit an image placed on a participant work area to be viewed at another workstation by actively causing information corresponding to the image to be transmitted to another workstation.

30. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising collision-correction functionality.

31. (Currently amended) The system of claim 30, wherein the collision-correction functionality comprises functionality permitting toggling between a pluralities of view modes.

32. (Currently amended) The system of claim 30, wherein the collision-correction functionality comprises functionality permitting relocation of images on the participant work area.

33. (Currently amended) A network of computers programmed for knowledge transfer in a group setting, the network comprising: a plurality of participant workstations, each programmed to provide a participant work area and having at least one corresponding participant input-device, and each of the participant input-devices being adapted to create data structures defining participant images that are then included in the participant work area; and a moderator workstation programmed to provide a moderator work area and comprising at least one moderator input-device, the at least one moderator input-device being adapted to: create data structures defining moderator images that are then included in the moderator work area; and to select moderator images that are then simultaneously included in each of plurality of participant work areas; wherein the moderator input-device is further adapted to select participant images from any of the plurality of participant work areas that are then included in the moderator work area; further comprising collision-correction functionality permitting relocation of images in the participant work area; wherein the relocation of images occurs automatically when a collision occurs.

34. (Currently amended) A system for knowledge transfer in a group setting, the system comprising: a plurality of participant workstations each adapted to provide

a participant work area and having at least one corresponding participant input-device and participant display each of the participant input-devices being adapted to define participant images that are then included in the corresponding participant work area; a moderator workstation comprising a moderator input-device and moderator display, said moderator workstation adapted to provide a moderator work area including a shared work area where images may be placed by the moderator and participants the moderator input-device being adapted to define moderator images that are then included in the shared work area and in each of the participant work areas, the moderator images generally displayed superimposed on participant images in the participant work area; and collision-avoidance functionality permitting a participant to place a first image in the shared work area visible to the moderator, the first image having a corresponding image in the participant work area that is not visible to the moderator.

35. (Currently amended) The system of claim 34, wherein the collision-avoidance functionality comprises a margin that does not have a corresponding location of the shared work area.

36. (Currently amended) A network of computers programmed for knowledge transfer in a group setting, the network comprising: a plurality of participant workstations each programmed to provide a participant work area and having at least one corresponding participant input-device and each of the participant input-devices being adapted to create data structures defining participant images

that are then included the participant work area; and a moderator workstation,

programmed to provide a moderator work area and comprising at least one

moderator input-devices the moderator work area including a shared work area,

the at least one moderator input-device being adapted to:

create data structures defining moderator images that are then included in the

moderator work area; and to select moderator images that are then

simultaneously included on each of plurality of participant work areas;

wherein the moderator input-device is further adapted to select participant

images from any of the plurality of participant work areas that are then included

on the moderator work area; further comprising collision-avoidance functionality

that permits the participant to place footnote images on the participant work area

that provide a link between the footnote images and corresponding images

placed on a portion of the participant work area that is not superimposed on the

shared work area.

37. (Currently amended) The network of claim 38, wherein the participant work

area comprises a participant public work area and a private work area, wherein

the moderator work area includes a shared work area, and wherein images

placed on the participant's public work area are generally displayed

superimposed on images on the shared work area.

38. (Currently amended) A network of computers programmed for knowledge

transfer in a group setting, the network comprising:

a plurality of participant workstations, each programmed to provide a participant

work area and having at least one corresponding participant input-device and

each of the participant input-devices being adapted to create data structures

defining participant images that are then included the participant work area; and

a moderator workstation, programmed to provide a moderator work area and

comprising at least one moderator input-devices the at least one moderator

input-device being adapted to: create data structures defining, moderator images

that are then included in the moderator work area; and to select moderator

images that are then simultaneously included on each of plurality of participant

work areas; wherein the moderator input-device is further adapted to select

participant images from any of the plurality of participant work areas that are then

included on the moderator work area; further comprising collision-avoidance

functionality that permits the participant to place footnote images in the

participant work area, the footnote images providing a link to corresponding

images located elsewhere.

39. (Currently amended) The network of claim 37, wherein the corresponding

images are placed on the participant's private work area.

40. (Original) The network of claim 38, wherein the footnote images are

implemented as hyperlinks which include functionality that causes the

participant's workstation to display the corresponding images.


41-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 127, wherein images placed on a participant work area at a participant workstation may be viewed only at that workstation unless a participant decides to permit them to be viewed from another workstation.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 48, wherein a participant can implement a decision to permit an image placed on a participant work area to be viewed at another workstation by setting a flag.

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 48, wherein a participant can implement a decision to permit an image placed on a participant work area to be viewed at another workstation by actively causing information corresponding to the image to be transmitted to another workstation.

51-56. (Cancelled)

57. (Currently amended) A network of computers programmed for knowledge transfer in a group setting, the network comprising: a plurality of participant workstations, each programmed to provide a participant work area and having at least one corresponding participant input-device and each of the participant input-devices being adapted to create data structures defining participant images that are then included on the participant work area; a moderator workstation, programmed to provide a moderator work area and comprising at least one moderator input-device, the at least one moderator input-device being adapted

to: create data structures defining moderator images that are then included on

the moderator work area; and select moderator images that are then

simultaneously included on each of plurality of participant work areas;

wherein the moderator work area comprises a moderator public scroll and a

moderator private scroll, and each participant work area comprises a participant

public scroll and a participant private scroll; wherein each participant workstation

displays images placed on the participant's public scroll by the moderator

superimposed on images placed on the participant's public scroll by the

participant's and wherein the moderator input-device is further adapted to select

participant images from any of the plurality of participant work areas that are then

included on the moderator work area; further comprising collision-avoidance

functionality that permits the participant to place footnote images on the

participant work area that provide a link between the footnote images and

corresponding images that are not typically superimposed on a shared work

area.


58-59. (Cancelled)


60. (Currently amended) A network of computers programmed for knowledge

transfer in a group setting, the network comprising: a plurality of participant

workstations, each programmed to provide a participant work area and having at

least one corresponding participant input-device, and each of the participant

input-devices being adapted to create data structures defining participant images

that are then included on the participant work area; and a moderator workstation,

programmed to provide a moderator work area and comprising at

least one moderator input-devices the at least one moderator input-device being

adapted to: create data structures defining moderator images that are then

included on the moderator work area; and select moderator images that are then

simultaneously included on each of plurality of participant work areas; wherein

the moderator work area comprises a moderator public-scroll and a moderator

private scroll, and each participant work area comprises a participant public scroll

and a participant private scroll; wherein each participant workstation displays

images placed on the participant's public scroll by the moderator superimposed

on images placed on the participant's public scroll by the participant; wherein the

moderator input-device is further adapted to select participant images from any of

the plurality of participant work areas that are then included on the moderator

work area; wherein the participant work area comprises a participant public work

area and a participant private work area; and wherein images placed on the

participant public work area are generally displayed superimposed over images

on the public scroll; further comprising collision-avoidance functionality that

permits the participant to place footnote images in the participant public work

area, the footnote images providing a link to corresponding images located in the

participant's private work area.

61. (Original) The network of claim 60, wherein the footnote images are

implemented as hyperlinks which include functionality that causes the

participant's work station to display the corresponding images.


62-67. (Cancelled)


68. (Currently amended) The method of claim 128, wherein a participant can

implement a decision to permit an image placed on a participant work area to be

viewed at another workstation by setting a flag.


69. (Currently amended) The method of claim 128, wherein a participant can

implement a decision to permit an image placed on a participant work area to be

viewed at another workstation by actively causing information corresponding to

the image to be transmitted to another workstation.


70-76. (Cancelled)


77. (Currently amended) The method of claim 79, wherein the corresponding

images located elsewhere comprise images placed on the participant's private

work area.


78. (Currently amended) The method of claim 128, wherein the participant work

area comprises a participant public work area and a private work area, wherein

images placed on the participant public work area are generally displayed

superimposed over images on the shared work area.

79. (Currently amended) The method of claim 78, wherein a participant's public

work area that are superimposed on the shared work area, the footnote images

providing a link to corresponding images located elsewhere.

80. (Currently amended) The method of claim 79, wherein the footnote images

are implemented as hyperlinks which include functionality that causes the

participant's workstation to display the corresponding images.

81-107. (Cancelled)

108. (Currently amended) A system for knowledge transfer in a group setting, the

system comprising: a plurality of participant work stations, each comprising:

At least one participant display device;

At least one input device;

A participant public scroll; and

A participant private scroll;

the at least one participant input device being adapted to permit the participant to

create data structures on the participant public scroll and participant private scroll

defining images that are displayed on the at least one participant display device;

and a moderator work station, comprising:

At least one moderator display device;

At least one moderator input-device; and

A moderator public scroll;

the at least one moderator input device being adapted to create data structures

on the moderator public scroll and each of the participant public scrolls defining

images that are displayed on the at least one moderator display device and on

each of the at least one participant display devices;

wherein the scrolls each comprise a plurality of panels, each panel comprising a

plurality of objects created in a sequences and wherein at least one of said

workstations is adapted to replay the creation sequence of objects on a given

panel in object-by-object fashion.


109-116. (Cancelled)


117. (Currently amended)  The system of claim 108, wherein the objects are

organized as linked-lists on each panel.

118. (Original) The system of claim 117, wherein objects placed on a scroll can

be replayed by displaying corresponding images as the objects are added to the

display one object at a time.

119. (Original) The system of claim 118, wherein the objects are added to the display in the order they were added to the scroll.

120. (Original) The system of claim 118, wherein the objects are added to the display in the order they were added to a given panel.

121. (Original) The system of claim 108, wherein each of the participant input devices can only create data structures that are placed on the participant's scrolls unless a moderator input device is used to permit otherwise.

122. (Original) The system of claim 118, wherein data structures included on the moderator public scroll are automatically placed on each of the participant public scrolls, and wherein a moderator input device can be used to permit a data structure created by a participant input device to be placed on other participant's scrolls by selecting it to be included on the moderator public scroll.

123. (Original) The system of claim 118, wherein a moderator input device can be used to permit a data structure created by a participant input device to be included on other participant public scrolls by causing the participant work station at which that participant input device is located to become the moderator workstation.

124. (Original) The system of claim 123, wherein a moderator input device can cause a participant workstation to become the moderator input device by passing a security token.

125. (New) A system for knowledge transfer in a group setting, the system comprising: a plurality of participant workstations, each adapted to provide a

participant work area and having at least one corresponding participant input-device and participant display, each of the participant input-devices being adapted to define participant images that are then included in the corresponding participant work area; and a moderator workstation comprising a moderator input-device and moderator display and adapted to provide a moderator work area, the moderator input-device being adapted to define moderator images that are then included in the moderator work area and to transmit moderator images to participant workstations, said moderator images including objects drawn by the moderator using the moderator input-device, wherein the moderator workstation is further adapted to transmit an object drawn by the moderator to participant workstations when the object is complete.

126. (New) An interactive learning method, comprising: providing a participant work area on each of a plurality of participant workstations each having at least one corresponding participant input-device and participant display, each of the participant input-devices being adapted to define participant images that are then included in the corresponding participant work area; providing a moderator work area on a moderator workstation comprising a moderator input- device and moderator display, the moderator input-device being adapted to define moderator images that are then included in the moderator work area and to transmit moderator images to participant workstations, said moderator images including objects drawn in the moderator work area using the moderator input-device; and

transmitting an object drawn in the moderator work area to participant

workstations when the object is complete.

127. (New) An interactive learning method, comprising: providing on each of a

plurality of participant workstations a participant work area having a plurality of

panels, each participant workstation having at least one corresponding

participant input-device and participant display, each of the participant input-

devices being adapted to define participant images that are then included in the

corresponding participant work area; providing a moderator work area having a

plurality of panels on a moderator workstation comprising at least one moderator

input-device, the at least one moderator input-device being adapted to define

moderator images that are then included in the moderator work area and to

select moderator images that are then simultaneously included in each of the

participant work areas; using the moderator workstation to identify a panel **not**

currently displayed in a selected participant work area; transmitting a request

message from the moderator workstation to the  corresponding participant

workstation for the identified panel; and transmitting the identified panel from the

corresponding participant workstation to the moderator workstation in response

to the request message.

128. (New) An interactive learning method, comprising: providing a participant

work area on each of a plurality of participant workstations having at least one

corresponding participant input-device and participant display, each of the

participant input-devices being adapted to define participant images that are then

included in the corresponding participant work area; providing a moderator work area on a moderator workstation comprising a moderator input- device and moderator display, said moderator work area including a shared work area where images may be placed by the moderator and participants, the moderator input-device being adapted to define moderator images that are then included in the shared work area and in each of the participant work areas, the moderator images generally displayed superimposed on participant images in the participant work areas; **avoiding collisions** by permitting a participant to place a first image in the shared work area visible to the moderator, the first image having a corresponding image in the participant work area that is not visible to the moderator.

129. (New) An interactive learning method, comprising: providing a plurality of participant work stations, each comprising: at least one participant display device; at least one input device; a participant public scroll, and a participant private scroll; the at least one participant input device being adapted to permit the participant to create data structures on the participant public scroll and participant private scroll defining images that are displayed on the at least one participant display device; providing a moderator work station, comprising: at least one moderator display device; at least one moderator input-device; and a moderator public scroll; the at least one moderator input device being adapted to create data structures on the moderator public scroll and each of the participant public scrolls defining images that are displayed on the at least one moderator display

device and on each of the at least one participant display devices, wherein the

scrolls each comprise a plurality of panels, each panel comprising a plurality of

objects created in a sequence; and wherein the creation sequence of objects on

a given panel of at least one of said scrolls is replayed in object-by-object

fashion.


### *Allowable Subject Matter*

Claims 1-13, 17-40, 48-50, 57, 60, 61, 68, 69, 77-80, 108, 117-129 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:


*Claims 1, 33, 34, 36, 38, 57, 60, 108, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129:*

The closest prior art is Hamilton, U.S. Patent No. 5,176,520; McArdle U.S.

Patent No. 5,859,974; Smith U.S. Patent No. 5,107,443;

Hamilton discloses a computer assisted instructional information delivery

system having at least two workstations. Hamilton discloses a teacher

workstation and at least one student workstation where the information displayed

on the teacher's workstation is simultaneously displayed on the student's station.

Hamilton also discloses the teachers stations has additional functionality that is

not included on the students workstation, which would include more processing

hardware and software that allows the teacher to communicate with a particular

student individually or the entire set of workstations currently communicating with

the teacher. Hamilton discloses a teacher's display that has icons on the display,

which represent each student workstation. If the teacher would like to see a specific station, then they would operate the Icon to see an additional display of the particular students desktop. Hamilton also discloses the teacher's workstation can be a split screen or comprised of additional monitors to allow the teacher to work with several students simultaneously.

McArdle discloses a method for linking public and private pages of a group of users in a conferencing system. McArdle teaches a public workspace and a private workspace. The private workspace is not visible to the other participants and no other user can make a request to access the private spaces. However, McArdle teaches the individual participant can link private saved pages created during the conference to the public pages so as to share the information.

However, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest a "what-you-see-is-what-I-see-one-way" paradigm in a collaborative knowledge transfer system, in which the moderator and moderator workstation contain **additional functionality that is not available** within the participants workstations for the access and control of the knowledge generation, sharing and access to images, text and data on private and shared work areas of both the moderator and the participants.

Additionally, the prior art fails to disclose, as recited in the present application claims, the ability of the moderator to select a panel on a participants work area that is not currently displayed and transmit the information to the moderator; where the application comprises collision correction functionality that automatically relocates images when a collision occurs in the participants work

area; where the collision avoidance functionality permits a participant to place an image in the moderator area from a participant area that was not visible to the moderator along with footnote images that are not displayed on the shared work area; a public and private scroll area on both the moderator and participant work areas which containing a plurality of panels displaying the creation of a sequence of images and that plurality of panels can be replayed in an object-by-object fashion; and where the moderator controls the transmission of images created by the moderator by actively controlling when the drawing instrument has lifted off of the panel signifying the object creation is complete .

The Examiner also notes, in regard to invention recited in Independent claims 1, 33, 34, 108 and 125, that the system for knowledge transfer in a group setting transfers and executes information between workstations where "each workstation includes its own processor, monitor, storage media and memory" as recited in the specification of the present invention (see Specification – Page 16, Para 2, lines 1-15). The Examiner interprets this disclosure to indicate that the system is executed on tangible computer mediums.

Claims 2-13, 17-32, 35, 37, 39, 40, 48-50, 61, 68-69, 77-80, 117-124 are dependent upon Claims *1, 33, 34, 36, 38, 57, 60, 108, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, respectively, are thus allowable*

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven B. Theriault whose telephone number is (571) 272-5867. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on (571) 272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SBT

/ BA HUYNH/
PRIMARY EXAMINER